

## MER

- Sometimes tow'rd heav'n, and the full blazing Sun,  
Which now sat high in his meridian tow'r. *Milton.*
2. Extended from North to South.  
Compare the meridian line afforded by magnetical needles  
with one mathematically drawn, and observe the variation of  
the needle, or its declination from the true meridian line. *Boyle.*
3. Raised to the highest point.
- MERIDIONAL. *adj.* [meridional, French.]
1. Southern.  
In the southern coast of America or Africa, the southern  
point varieth toward the land, as being disposed that way by  
the meridian or proper hemisphere. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
2. Southerly; having a southern aspect.  
All offices that require heat, as kitchens, stillatories, and  
stoves, would be meridianal. *Wotton's Architect.*
- MERIDIONALITY. *n. f.* [from meridianal.] Position in the  
South; aspect towards the South.
- MERIDIONALLY. *adv.* [from meridianal.] With a southern  
aspect.  
The Jews, not willing to lie as their temple stood, do  
place their bed from North to South, and delight to sleep  
meridionally. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii.*
- MERIT. *n. f.* [meritum, Latin; meritis, French.]
1. Desert; excellence deserving honour or reward.  
You have the captives; use them  
As we shall find their merits and our safety  
May equally determine. *Shakspeare, King Lear.*  
She deem'd I well deserv'd to die,  
And made a merit of her cruelty. *Dryden.*  
Rofcommon, not more learn'd than good,  
With manners gen'rous as his noble blood;  
To him the wit of Greece and Rome was known,  
And ev'ry author's merit but his own. *Pope.*  
She valu'd nothing leis  
Than titles, figure, shape, and drefs;  
That merit should be chiefly plac'd  
In judgment, knowledge, wit, and taste. *Swift.*
2. Reward deserved.  
Those laurel groves, the merits of thy youth,  
Which thou from Mahomet didst greatly gain,  
While bold assertor of refistless truth,  
Thy sword did godlike liberty maintain. *Prior.*
3. Claim; right.  
As I am studious to promote the honour of my native  
country, I put Chaucer's merits to the trial, by turning some  
of the Canterbury tales into our language. *Dryden.*  
When a point hath been well examined, and our own  
judgment settled, after a large survey of the merits of the  
cause, it would be a weakness to continue fluttering. *Watts.*
- TO MERIT. *v. a.* [meritis, French.]
1. To deserve; to have a right to claim any thing as deserved.  
Amplify have merited of me, of all  
Th' infernal empire. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*  
A man at best is incapable of meriting any thing from  
God. *South's Sermons.*
2. To deserve; to earn: it is used generally of good, but some-  
times of ill.  
Whatsoever jewels I have merited, I am sure I have re-  
ceived none, unless experience be a jewel; that I have pur-  
chased at an infinite rate. *Shakspeare, Merry Wives of Windsor.*  
If such rewards to vanquish'd men are due,  
What prize may Nifus from your bounty claim,  
Who merited the first rewards, and fame? *Dryden.*
- MERITORIOUS. *adj.* [meritorius, Fr. from merit.] Deserving of  
reward; high in desert.  
Instead of so great and meritorious a service, in bringing all  
the Irish to acknowledge the king for their liege, they did  
great hurt. *Spenser on Ireland.*  
The war that hath such a foundation will not only be re-  
puted just, but holy and meritorious. *Raleigh's Essays.*  
A most sufficient means of redemption and salvation, by  
the satisfactory and meritorious death and obedience of the  
incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, God blessed for ever.  
*Bishop Sanderson.*  
This is not only the most prudent, but the most meritorious  
charity, which we can practice. *Addison's Spect.*
- MERITORIOUSLY. *adv.* [from meritorious.] In such a manner  
as to deserve reward.  
He carried himself meritoriously in foreign employments  
in time of the interdict, which held up his credit among the  
patriots. *Wotton.*
- MERITORIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from meritorious.] The act or state  
of deserving well.  
There was a full persuasion of the high meritoriousness of  
what they did; but still there was no law of God to ground  
it upon, and consequently it was not confidence. *South.*
- MERITOR. *n. f.* [meritor, Lat.] A kind of play. *Ans.*
- MERLIN. *n. f.* A kind of hawk.  
Not yielding over to old age his country delights; he was  
at that time following a merlin. *Sidney.*

## MER

- ME'RMALD. *n. f.* [mer, the sea, and maid.] A sea woman; an  
animal with a woman's head and fish's tail.  
I'll drown more sailors than the mermaid shall. *Shakspeare.*  
Thou remembrest,  
Since once I sat upon a promontory,  
And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back  
Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,  
That the rude sea grew civil at her song.  
Did sense persuade Ulysses not to hear  
The mermaid's songs, which so his men did please,  
That they were all persuaded, through the ear,  
To quit the ship and leap into the seas?  
Few eyes have escaped the picture of a mermaid: Horace  
his monster, with woman's head above and fishy extremity  
below, answers the shape of the ancient syrens that attempt-  
ed upon Ulysses. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*
- MERMAID'S TRUMPET. *n. f.* A kind of fish. *Ans.*
- MERRILY. *adv.* [from merry.]
1. Gaily; civilly; cheerfully; with mirth; with gaiety; with  
laughter.  
Merrily, merrily, shall we live now,  
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough. *Shakspeare.*  
When men come to borrow of your masters, they ap-  
proach sadly, and go away merrily. *Shakspeare, Timon of Athens.*  
You have ended my business, and I will merrily accompany  
you home. *Shakspeare's Coriolanus.*  
A paisan of France thinks of no more than his coarse  
bread and his onions, his canvas clothes and wooden shoes,  
labours contentedly on working days, and dances or plays  
merrily on holidays. *Temple's Misc.*
- Merrily sing, and sport, and play,  
For 'tis Oriana's nuptial day. *Granville.*
- ME'RRIMAKE. *n. f.* [merry and make.] A festival; a meeting  
for mirth.  
Thenot now nis the time of merrymake,  
Nor Pan to herie, nor with love to play,  
Sike mirth in May is meetest for to make,  
Or Summer shade, under the cocked hay. *Spenser's Puff.*  
The knight did not forbear,  
Her honest mirth and pleasure to partake,  
But when he saw her gibe, and toy, and geare,  
And pass the bounds of modest merrymake,  
Her dalliance he despised. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
- TO ME'RRIMAKE. *v. a.* To feast; to be jovial.  
With thee 'twas Marian's dear delight  
To moid all day, and merrymake at night. *Gay's Pastoral.*
- MERRIMENT. *n. f.* [from merry.] Mirth; gaiety; cheerfulness; laughter.  
Who when they heard that piteous strained voice,  
In haste forsook their rural merriment. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*  
A hafter of merriments and jests, wherewith they have  
pleasantly moved much laughter at our manner of serving  
God. *Hooker, b. v.*
- Merriment it was the found  
Of riot and ill-managed merriment. *Milton.*
- MERRINESS. *n. f.* [from merry.] Mirth; merry disposition.  
The title shall give us cause to climb in the merriness. *Shakspeare.*
- MERRY. *adj.*
1. Laughing; loudly cheerful; gay of heart.  
They drank and were merry with him. *Gen. xlii. 34.*  
By the vine languisheth, all the merry-hearted sigh. *Ips. xxiv.*  
Some that are of an ill and melancholy nature, incline the  
company into which they come to be sad and ill-disposed;  
and others that are of a jovial nature, do dispose the com-  
pany to be merry and cheerful. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
Man is the merriest species of the creation; all above and  
below him are serious. *Addison.*
2. Causing laughter.  
You kill'd her husband, and for that vile fault  
Two of her brothers were condemn'd to death;  
My hand cut off, and made a merry jest. *Shakspeare.*
3. Prosperous.  
In my small pinnacle I can sail,  
Contemning all the blustering roar;  
And running with a merry gale,  
With friendly flars my safety seek,  
Within some little winding creek,  
And see the storm ashore. *Dryden.*
- TO MAKE MERRY. To junket; to be jovial.  
They trod the grapes and made merry, and went into the  
house of their God. *Judg. ix. 27.*  
A fox 'py'd a bevy of jolly, gossiping wenches making  
merry over a dish of pullets. *L'Estrange.*
- MERRY-ANDREW. *n. f.* A buffoon; a zany; a jack-pudding.  
He would be a statesman because he is a buffoon; so that  
there went no more to the making of a counsellor than the  
facilities of a merry-andrew or tumbler. *L'Estrange.*
- The first who made the experiment was a merry-an-  
drew. *Spectator, No. 599.*
- MERRY-THOUGHT.

## MES

- ME'RYTHOUGHT. *n. f.* [merry and thought.] A forked bone  
on the body of fowls; so called because boys and girls pull  
in play at the two sides, the longest part broken off betoken-  
ing priority of marriage.  
Let him not be breaking merrythoughts under the table with  
my cousin. *Eachard's Contempt of the Clergy.*
- MESSE'ACK. *n. f.* [μεσσην; messeack, Fr. analogy re-  
quires it messeack.] Belonging to the mystery.  
It taketh leave of the permanent parts at the mouths of the  
messeacks, and accompanieth the inconvertible portion into  
the sieve. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- The most subtle part of the chyle passeth immediately into  
the blood by the absorbent vessels of the guts, which discharge  
themselves into the messeack veins. *Arbutnot.*
- MESSE'ACK. *n. f.* [messe, Lat.] The act of sinking, or thrust-  
ing over head. *Ans.*
- MESSE'ACKS, impersonal verb. [me and seems, or it seems to me:  
for this word it is now too common to use methinks or me-  
thought, an ungrammatical word.] I think; it appears to me;  
methinks.  
Alas, of ghosts I hear the gaffly cries;  
Yet there, messeacks, I hear her fingling loud. *Sidney.*  
Messem'd by my tide a royal maid,  
Her dainty limbs full softly down did lay. *Fairy Queen.*  
To that general subjection of the land messem'd that the  
custom or tenure can be no bar nor impeachment. *Spenser.*
- MESSE'ACKERY. *n. f.* [messeack, Fr.] That round  
which the guts are convolved.  
When the chyle passeth through the messeackery, it is mixed  
with the lymph. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
- MESSE'ACK'ICK. *adj.* [messeackerie, French, from messeackery.]  
Relating to the messeackery.  
They are carried into the glands of the messeackery, receiving  
a fine lymph from the lymphatic ducts, which dilates this  
chylous fluid, and scours its containing vessels, which, from  
the messeackery glands, unite in large channels, and pass di-  
rectly into the common receptacle of the chyle. *Chyne.*
- MESH. *n. f.* [meshe, Dutch; mache, old French: it were  
therefore better written, as it is commonly pronounced, mesh.]  
The interstice of a net; the space between the threads of a  
net.  
The drovers hang square nets athwart the tide, thorough  
which the shoal of pilchard passing, leave many behind en-  
tangled in the meshes. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*  
Such a hate is madness the youth, to skip o'er the meshes of  
good counsel the madnes. *Shakspeare, Merchant of Venice.*  
He spreads his subtle nets from sight,  
With twinkling glazes to betray  
The larks that in the meshes light. *Dryden.*  
With all their mouths the nerves the spirits drink,  
Which through the cells of the fine strainers sink:  
These all the channel'd fibres ev'ry way,  
For motion and sensation, still convey:  
The greatest portion of th' arterial blood,  
By the close fracture of the parts withstood,  
Whole narrow meshes stop the grosser food. *Blackmore.*
- TO MESH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To catch in a net; to en-  
snare.  
The flies by chance mesh't in her hair,  
From her bright radiance thrown  
From her clear eyes, rich jewels were,  
They so like diamonds shone. *Drayton.*  
Some build his house, but thence his issue barre,  
Some make his meshy bed, but leave his rest. *Carew.*  
Caught in the meshy snare, in vain they beat  
Their idle wings. *Thomson.*
- ME'SLIN. *n. f.* [from meslin, French, to mix; or rather cor-  
ruptly pronounced for mesellane. See MASLIN.] Mixed corn:  
as, wheat and rie.  
What reason is there which should but induce, and there-  
fore much less enforce, us to think, that care of old diffimi-  
litude between the people of God and the heathen nations  
about them, was any more the cause of forbidding them to  
put on garments of sundry stuff, than of charging them withal  
not to sow their fields with meslin. *Hooker, b. iv.*  
If work for the thresher ye mind for to have,  
Of wheat and of meslin unthresh'd go save. *Tusser.*
- MESOLUTYCS. *n. f.* [μεσολυτικος.] A precious stone, black,  
with a streak of white in the middle. *Dia.*
- MESOLOGARITHMS. *n. f.* [μεσολογισμος, and αριθμος.]  
The logarithms of the sines and tangents, so denominated  
by Kepler. *Harris.*
- MESOMELAS. *n. f.* [μεσομελας.] A precious stone with a black  
vein passing every colour in the midst. *Bailey.*
- ME'SPITE. *n. f.* [probably misprinted for mesprise; mespris, Fr.]  
Contempt; scorn.  
Mammon was much displeas'd, yet note he chose  
But bear the rigour of his bold mesprise,  
And thence him forward led, him further to entice. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

## MET

- MESS. *n. f.* [meis, old French; messo, Italian; missus, Latin;  
mess, Gothick; mere, Saxon, a dish.] A dish; a quantity  
of food sent to table together.  
The bounteous hufwife, nature, on each bush  
Lays her full mess before you. *Shakspeare, Timon of Athens.*  
Now your traveller,  
He and his toothpick at my worship's mess. *Shakspeare.*  
I had as lief you should tell me of a mess of porridge.  
*Shakspeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.*
- Herbs, and other country messes,  
Which the neat-handed Phillis dresses.  
Had either of the crimes been cooked to their palates,  
they might have changed messes. *Decay of Pity.*  
From him he next receives it thick or thin,  
As pure a mess almost as it came in. *Pope.*
- TO MESS. *v. n.* To eat; to feed.
- ME'SSAGE. *n. f.* [message, Fr.] An errand; any thing commit-  
ted to another to be told to a third.  
She doth display  
The gate with pearls and rubies richly dight,  
Through which her words to wife do make their way,  
To bear the message of her spright. *Spenser, Sonnet 81.*  
May one, that is a herald and a prince,  
Do a fair message to his kingly ears! *Shakspeare.*  
She is fair, and, fairer than that word,  
Of wondrous virtues; sometimes from her eyes  
I did receive fair speechless messages. *Shakspeare.*  
Gently hast thou told  
Thy message, which might else in telling wound,  
And in performing end us. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xi.*  
Let the minister be low, his interest inconsiderable, the  
word will suffer for his sake; the message will still find recep-  
tion according to the dignity of the messenger. *South.*
- The welcome message made, was soon receiv'd;  
'Twas to be with'd and hop'd, but scarce believ'd. *Dryden.*
- ME'SSENGER. *n. f.* [messager, French.] One who carries an  
errand; one who comes from another to a third; one who  
brings an account or foretoken of any thing; an harbinger;  
a forerunner.  
Came running in, much like a man difmaid,  
A messenger with letters, which his message said. *Fa. Qu.*  
Yon grey lines,  
That fret the clouds, are messengers of day. *Shakspeare.*  
Run after that same peevish messenger,  
The duke's man. *Shakspeare.*  
The earl dispatched messengers one after another to the king,  
with an account of what he heard and believed he saw, and  
yet thought not fit to stay for an answer. *Clarendon.*  
Joy touch'd the messenger of heav'n; he stay'd  
Entranc'd, and all the blissful haunt survey'd. *Pope.*
- MESSIAH. *n. f.* [from the Hebrew.] The Anointed; the  
Christ; the Saviour of the world; the Prince of peace.  
Great and publick opposition the magistrates made against  
Jesus the man of Nazareth, when he appeared as the Mes-  
siah. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
- MESSIEURS. *n. f.* [Fr. plural of monsieur.] Sirs; gentle-  
men.
- ME'SSMATE. *n. f.* [messi and mate.] One who eats at the same  
table.
- ME'SSUAGE. *n. f.* [messuagium, law Latin; formed perhaps  
message by mistake of the n in court-hand for u, they being  
written alike, message from maison, French.] The house and  
ground set apart for household uses.
- MET, the preterite and part of meet.
- A set of very well-meaning gentlemen in England, not to  
be met with in other countries, take it for granted they can  
never be in the wrong so long as they can oppose ministers of  
state. *Addison's Freeholder, No. 48.*
- METAGRAMMATISM. *n. f.* [μεταγραμματισμος.]  
Anagrammatism, or metagrammatism, is a dissolution of a  
name truly written into its letters, as its elements, and a new  
connexion of it by artificial transposition, without addition,  
subtraction, or change of any letter into different words,  
making some perfect sense applicable to the person named.  
*Camden's Remains.*
- METABASIS. *n. f.* [Greek.] In rhetoric, a figure by which  
the orator passes from one thing to another. *Diogen.*
- METABOLA. *n. f.* [μεταβολη.] In medicine, a change of time,  
air, or disease.
- METACARPUS. *n. f.* [μετακαρπιον.] In anatomy, a bone of  
the arm made up of four bones, which are joined to the fin-  
gers. *Diogen.*  
The conjunction is called synarthrosis; as in the joining of  
the carpus to the metacarpus. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
- METACARPAL. *adj.* [from metacarpus.] Belonging to the me-  
tacarpus. *Diogen.*  
It will facilitate the separation in the joint, when you cut  
the finger from the metacarpal bone. *Sharp's Surgery.*
- ME'TAL. *n. f.* [metal, French; metallum, Latin.]  
We understand by the term metal a firm, heavy, and hard  
substance, opaque, fusible by fire, and concreting again when  
16 K  
cold